MR. C. N. TUPPAN NAMPUTIRIPAD (*Nominated*): ഈ ഭാഗത്തെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞതിനു ഞാൻ മി: കെ. പി. നീലകണ്ഠപിള്ളയെയും അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: I may mention that on Saturday next after the presentation of the Budget and the Financial Secretary's speech, time may be spared to make up the time lost to-day. The motion now before the House is that the Bill be postponed for consideration until tomorrow. I take it that the House agrees to it.

The motion was put and carried.

THE MUNICIPAL REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is some little time to-day, and I think that it would be better to introduce the Municipal Regulation Amendment Bill, the next item in the day's agenda. The Bill was published in the *Gazette* with a Statement of Objects and Reasons, and I beg to move that the Bill be read in Council.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I second it.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I shall now briefly explain the principles involved in the Bill, and in doing so let me preface my remarks with the observation that the Government are aware that the existing Municipal Regulation stands in need of wholesale amendments. The Government have undertaken to introduce the necessary Bills for the purpose, one relating to the Trivandrum town.....

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, from the day's agenda, it is found that the Bills have to be introduced in a particular order. Now, what I find is that certain Bills have been passed over, and the Law Member is introducing a Bill which finds a place towards the end.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Perhaps, the member is referring to the general list of business and not the day's agenda. This is the only Bill in the agenda to be introduced to-day.

Government have undertaken to prepare one Bill for the Trivandrum town, and another for the other Municipalities. As the House is aware, the Bill for the Trivandrum City is ready, and I may inform the House that the other Bill is under preparation. To get through these Bills in the Council much time would be required as many principles are involved in them. The Select Committees have to sit for a long time, the Second Reading of the Bills may take some days. All these mean that the Bills before they become law may have to pass through say some eighteen months. In the meantime, an urgent necessity has arisen for certain specific amendments. The Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme which the Government have undertaken t

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carry out is nearing completion, and the Government hope to supply water in the town before the close of 1108. Some special provisions have become necessary to enable the working of the water-supply. First of all, the question will arise whether the Government should undertake the working themselves or hand over the supply to the Municipality; and if they hand it over to the Municipality, whether they should not make a contribution. Again, the Municipality may require additional funds for which they must have the power to tax. If the Government are to work out the supply, they would have to spend out of the general tax-payer's money to the exclusive advantage of the Trivandrum citizens. In view of these, this Bill has been prepared and is now placed before the Council. The chief principle involved in this Bill is that the Municipality should be enabled to levy a tax for water-supply and drainage. It is proposed that the rate of tax should be not less than 5 per cent. of the rental value of the houses. It is also provided by this Bill that it is open to the Government either to work the supply themselves or hand it over to the Municipality.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the words "not *below* 5 per cent" are deliberately put in there or whether it is a misprint?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It is deliberately inserted there. Five per cent. is the least that a Municipality should levy for the supply of water.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then am I to understand that the Municipality should on no account levy a tax below 5 per cent. of the house rentals?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is what the Bill proposes. It is prepared with a special eye to the Trivandrum Water Supply Scheme, the expenses of which could not be met by levying any tax below 5 per cent. of the rental value of the house.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it intended that the collection of the tax should cover interest on the outlay and also on the working charges?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): All these are details to be settled. But primarily we have just now in view the working charges.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are any figures available in regard to the running cost of the Scheme?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): A rough idea of it would be given by Mr. Westerdale when he speaks on this.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is there no provision under the existing Regulation in regard to the levy of a tax?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) Yes. But that is not considered sufficient.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to know why a *minimum* of 5 per cent. of the house rental should be levied and not a *maximum* of 5 per cent.? Why should the Government fix the minimum and not the maximum? Supposing 5 per cent. of the annual house renal is not required for the Water Supply Scheme, am I to understand that the Government would compel the Municipality to collect this 5 per cent?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Government are convinced that *any* tax below 5 per cent. would be insufficient to meet the expenses of the Water Supply Scheme.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what the maximum will be?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That is left to the Municipality.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, am I to understand that this is an attempt to compel the Municipality to collect at least 5 per cent. of the house rent?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, it is.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the member mean that this is intended only to the Trivandrum Municipality?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I have already said that it was prepared with a special eye to the needs of the Trivandrum Municipality.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will it suit the case of the other Municipalities also?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): It may, but the present Bill is prepared with special regard to the needs of the Trivandrum city alone.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Then, may I know what urgent need has now arisen for the introduction of this Bill?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I shall explain, Sir. The getting through of the general Bills relating to the Trivandrum city as well as the other Municipalities will, as I have already said, take a pretty long time, say about 18 months. We want a measure for taxing the people of Trivandrum as soon as the Water Supply Scheme is completed and water begins to be supplied to the people, which I believe to be possible before the close of 1108. Thus this Bill which is only a small amending Bill has become urgently necessary. But this is only a transitory measure as it were for a period of about 18 months, and the general Bills will be placed for discussion afterwards and I would suggest that the detailed discussion may be reserved for the general Bills.

MR. S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Does the Bill contain suitable provisions as regards the supply of water to the people living in other municipal areas?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes. From the Statement of Objects and Reasons published

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in the *Gazette*, it will be seen that the Bill contains such provisions, but the suitability of it as regards other Municipalities is not of practical interest just now.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know why it was found necessary to fix a minimum and not a maximum? Is it because that the Government thought that the Municipality would not be reasonable in fixing a rate?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Not that. Government thought that any levy under 5 per cent. would not under any circumstances be sufficient to meet the expenses of the water-supply.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Have the Government any idea of what the probable amount of collection at this rate of 5 per cent. of the house rent will be?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Mr. Westerdale will speak on the motion and he will enlighten the member on this point. It is not reasonable to take the view that it is because the Government thought that the Municipality would be unreasonable that they fixed the *minimum*.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what the maximum house tax in Trivandrum is?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I think it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

One principle involved in this Bill is the power to be given to the Municipality to tax and the other is the power given to the Government either to work the Scheme themselves or to hand it over to the Municipality. As I have already said, if the Government work the supply, they will have to get contribution from the Municipality, and if the Municipality works it, it will of course meet the expenses. It is proposed also that if any locality is not benefited by the supply, it may be exempted from the payment of the water tax.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has the member any idea of those parts of the town which may be exempted?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The places which are not to be supplied with water.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether Sastamangalam, Vellayambalam and the neighbouring places will be exempted from the operation of this Bill?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I cannot say. All that depends—

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I just want to know whether people living in localities where there is good drinking water will at least be exempted from the payment of this tax?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That point Mr. Westerdale will make clear. I only said that people who are not benefited by the supply need not have to pay.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will there be an attempt to compel people already getting good drinking water from wells to pay the tax?

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MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Government may perhaps have to compel people to submit themselves to some discipline in the interests of the general public health which is an important matter.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether, under the existing Regulation, there is a provision for introducing water cess in a municipal area?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes; but that is not considered sufficient. Further the existing Regulation does not provide for the Government working the water-supply themselves. There is no provision for the exemption of any locality. In this measure, you get all these things.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): So, am I to understand that under this Regulation, the Government or the Municipality is authorised to exempt localities which are not benefited by the scheme?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, that is one of the provisions of the present Bill.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is the Council authorised to levy a tax for defraying the expenses connected with the water-supply system?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): As this provision stands at present, it only gives a general power to the Municipality to impose a tax on inhabitants who are benefited by the water-supply. There is no express provision for exempting any locality.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it is the object of the Government to bring the water-supply for the town within 12 or 18 months' period?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, in the next year, 1108.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): In what time? Can the Law Member assure the House in what time the water-supply will be brought?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Yes, in the course of 1108.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Am I to understand then, that within 12 months, the people of the Trivandrum town will be able to enjoy the benefit of the water-supply?

TO MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Government expect so.

I would suggest to the House that, if the principle of the Bill is passed now, the Second Reading of it could be gone through even in this session itself. Immediately after this becomes law, I will put the City Bill for the discussion of the House.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government have considered the question of allowing sufficient powers to Municipalities to introduce water cess?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): If the Bill is passed?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether there was any requisition from the Municipality to Government that such an amendment is necessary?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I cannot speak quite confidently about that. I think there was a resolution from the Municipality. I know that the President of the Trivandrum Municipality was consulted in the matter. There was a conference during the time of the late Dewan on this particular matter and it was decided that a 5 per cent. tax would at least be required for the purpose.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): So, from such an informal consultation between the President and some other officers, the above percentage was arrived at. Am I to take it in that light?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I believe some non-official representatives of the Municipality also were present at the conference. There was a detailed discussion and conclusions were arrived at.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Municipal Councillors as a body were consulted in this matter?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not quite sure of that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the Government, at the time the Scheme was embarked upon, consulted the Municipality in regard to the probable cost of the Scheme, the cess that will have to be collected and so forth, and, whether the Government got their approval; what publicity the Government gave in regard to the burden to be imposed on the people on account of the scheme; what public opinion they ascertained and what the Municipality said? Will the Government furnish the required information?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): The Municipality said that they were utterly unable to embark upon any water-supply scheme and on more than one occasion the Municipality made a request to the Government to undertake the system of water-supply, and thereupon it was started.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether information, regarding cost, regarding the burden to be placed upon the consumers, upon the inhabitants of the town, were brought to the notice of the Municipality?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I am not sure whether an estimate of costs was sent to the Municipality for their remarks. But I know it was at the request of the Municipality, that the work was undertaken.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know whether information in regard to the burden on the people was brought to the notice of the municipality ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): That can be known only if the work undertaken is finished. And the Municipality did not put any conditions when they made the request to the Government.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether he concedes that when water-supply is introduced, the Municipality must be empowered to tax the people ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is it understood clearly that water-supply cannot be given to the town without taxing the people above 5 per cent.?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : There is no physical impossibility.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Is there any definite information from the Water Supply authority that a tax above 5 per cent. is necessary for defraying charges so that the town may get water-supply within the limited time ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Yes. My friend is correct in his surmise.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know the exact house-tax rate ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Two and a half per cent. on the value.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is there not a cess collected on land ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Though the Regulation gives power, I do not think it is actually being done now.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : So, here the proposition is to levy a tax on land also.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Yes.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : May I know whether the Government have any objection to adding a special clause to the effect that no Municipality other than Trivandrum Municipality will be affected by this Bill ?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : If the House or any member feels any apprehension that this measure when passed will be applied to the other Municipalities, I have not the least objection to such a provision being incorporated.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Does the member think that it is fair to the Trivandrum Municipality to do like that?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): There is no question of fairness. The general Bills will come in soon and all Municipalities will then be affected.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the harm involved in extending the operation of the Scheme to other Municipalities as well?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Because the other Municipalitities are not going to get the benefit of the water-supply within a period of 12 or 18 months.

This amendment measure is really intended to be applied to the Trivandrum Municipality alone, and I beg to move that the principle be accepted.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I second it.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg to oppose the principle of the Bill. The first point on which I am compelled to oppose the introduction of this Bill is, we do not know anything definite about the object with which this Bill is now proposed to be introduced. About the general principles, if the question is really water-supply to the Trivandrum Municipality on the one hand and the powers of the Municipality to introduce water cess on the other, the Municipality must have sufficient power to introduce watertax. Apart from that particular point, I do not know whether the introduction of the Bill can be supported on any principle. Even with reference to that point, the whole thing is in a very controversial atmosphere. We do not know as a matter of fact if the Law Member intended when he said this Bill is only a transitory measure which may be applied only for 10 or 12 months, merely on that ground alone the Bill is necessary at all. We are not certain that within one year or two, the Trivandrum town is going to have water. Even supposing that, within 10 or 12 months, those people responsible for the working of the Scheme are able to get water to some localities in the Trivandrum town, this Bill, for the First, Second and Third Reading, automatically will take more than 12 months. If the Law Member proposes to introduce the City Municipal Bill in spite of this measure that would have been a more comprehensive measure. When as a matter of fact necessity has been felt for amending the existing Municipal Regulation that would have been a more direct method, instead of introducing a Bill which is supposed to operate for 10 or 12 months, soon after the introduction of the water-supply. That depends only upon the Law Member's assurance that water-supply would be introduced within 12 months. Hence, we have to proceed on this assumption *viz*, that within 12 months the supply of water will be availabe for the Trivandrum Municipality. Then the Municipality will be authorised to introduce cess. For that purpose alone this Bill is introduced for consideration by this House. That is the only ground why this Bill is introduced.

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[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

The most relevant thing is with regard to the principle about taxation. Under the existing Municipal Regulation, the Municipality is empowered to tax not below 5 per cent. They can introduce a tax up to 5 per cent. The exact words used in the present Bill are "not below 5 per cent." This amendment is a very comprehensive one and if it is carried, the Municipality is empowered to tax up to 25 or 30 or 40 per cent. and if the Law Member wanted to introduce the amendment fixing the limit on account of water-supply that would have been more fair. Now the Municipality is given by this amendment very extensive powers to introduce a tax to a percentage according to their whims and fancies. From our experiences, we see how buildings are taxed now in the city. There is no rule or principle enunciated or understood or accepted by the Municipalities. Buildings are taxed arbitrarily and taxation under existing conditions is very high.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Supposing that no provision is provided either for the maximum or the minimum of tax, is the member agreeable to that?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That does not make any difference. The proposed amendment goes beyond that. The Municipality is empowered to tax not below 5 per cent. They are compelled to tax, at least 5 per cent, whether reasonable or not.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Supposing the whole rate of taxation is left to the discretion of the Municipality, what is the member's opinion then?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*): Why not fix a maximum?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Unless it be done somewhat arbitrarily, it would not be possible.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Without an expert being consulted in the matter, I cannot say anything definite. It is natural that the working cost should be known. In regard to the introduction of water-supply, the essential factor to be aware of is, what would be the tax for a particular unit of consumption, so that the Scheme may not suffer, the working expenses may not be realised from the people who derive benefit. Some definite figures must be ascertained.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Suppose it is not more than 10 per cent.—not that I am suggesting that the Government have come to the conclusion that 10 per cent. would do.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That very question has to be decided with reference to an expert in this matter, with reference to other places where water-supply schemes are being worked, how the people in those places are taxed and so on.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Does the member know that not more than 10 per cent. means four times the present house tax?

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) ; Yes. Even now, under the existing taxation, 2½ per cent, is fixed. Therefore, by introducing this amendment and by accepting it if a house is fetching 120 rupees per mensem, whether as a matter of fact it fetches 2½ per cent. tax is the question. If the Municipality is compelled to collect 5 per cent. for water alone, what would be the tax for a house fetching about Rs. 100. Even from that point also, a measure of the kind now proposed is highly objectionable, and the proposed taxation is beyond the capacity of the Trivandrum citizens. Therefore, on these grounds, I emphatically oppose the introduction of this Bill.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sir, we wish to hear Mr. Westerdale.

PRESIDENT : I do not think Mr. Nilakanta Pillai has finished his speech.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : I am not able to hear the remarks from the Chair, Sir.

PRESIDENT : I do not know whether Mr. Nilakanta Pillai has finished his speech.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I think he has finished.

PRESIDENT : He was standing when you spoke, Mr. Thanu Pillai.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I am very sorry, Sir.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*) : When I came to the House to-day, I had no knowledge that I will have to speak on the subject. But I hope I may be able to give the members some idea about the proposition, which will meet with the approval of the members of the House. Mr. Thanu Pillai raised a question whether the Trivandrum Municipality was consulted before the scheme was started. Well, I do not know what purpose would be served by raising that question. The scheme has already been started. In fact, I have heard no criticism of the scheme from anybody. Everybody is pleased with the scheme; very little use arises *now* in considering the question why the scheme has been started. The scheme has already been started and the maintenance of the scheme has got to be made. We very often look to our sister Province of Madras, for guidance, with reference to what is being done there. In Madras, there are 31 Municipalities which have protective water-supply schemes, and I think I am correct in saying that, without a single exception, they are being maintained entirely by the Municipalities, without any contribution whatsoever, from Government. In a large majority of these schemes, first the cost was met to the extent of at least 50 per cent. by the Municipalities themselves. In one or two cases like Vizayanagaram a special contribution was given by the Raja of Vizayanagaram. In a large majority of cases, the Municipalities paid half the original cost, Government contributing nothing towards up-keep. Trivandrum is going to have a good scheme and I think it is reasonable that the Municipality should pay for the up-keep.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I am sorry Iam not able to hear Mr. Westerdale.

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MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*) : The cost of maintenance of the Scheme has been estimated by the Executive Engineer at not less than Rs. 1,20,000 per annum, that is, on a liberal assumption as to consumption of water in the earlier stages of the Scheme. My own impression is that in the first year of its working, it will not cost more than Rs. 75,000. Undoubtedly in 2 or 3 years' time, if the Scheme is properly managed, we may expect the maintenance grant to increase to one and a quarter lakhs. That money has got to be provided for.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is it for maintenance alone ?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): For maintenance and depreciation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is it not for maintenance alone ?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*) : The whole scheme has to be worked out on a proper financial basis. I am afraid I have not got definite figures. It would be better if I continue the discussion after lunch.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 1-55 P. M. and re-assembled at 2-30 P. M., the Deputy President, presiding.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Owing to indisposition the Dewan is not able to preside now. So, I take the chair.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*) : When the House rose for lunch, Sir, I was speaking on the question of the cost of maintaining the Water Works. I mentioned the figure one and a quarter lakhs speaking from memory. I find the actual figure comes to about Rs. 1,26,000 according to the original report. We have subsequently revised that estimate at current rates and have prepared a more accurate estimate. As it is, the annual cost of maintenance of the Water Works is estimated to be a little over a lakh of rupees. As I stated this morning, for the first one or two years it would not probably be more than Rs. 75,000 : but ultimately this figure of a lakh odd will be reached.

Mr. Thanu Pillai asked me whether this amount included the provision for a sinking fund or interest on the capital. The total cost of the scheme is over Rs. 52 lakhs, and naturally therefore the interest on it would be a very high figure. The amount of one lakh represents only the estimated cost of maintenance and does not make provision for depreciation or for sinking fund or for interest. It includes twenty thousand rupees for the maintenance of the plant and keeping it up to date. Including provision for depreciation, sinking fund and interest on the capital expenditure, the amount would come to a very much bigger sum. It would be somewhere like four lakhs. Possibly, the Chief Secretary or the Financial Secretary would be able to give the House information on the financial aspect of the scheme. I was only speaking of the absolutely essential expenditure, from the engineering point of view, in keeping the Water Supply Scheme going. That is the point I am dealing with.

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We are going to have a water supply scheme and we must have some means of maintaining it, pumping the water and purifying it. It is absolutely necessary that the authorities concerned must have the powers necessary to raise money for meeting the necessary cost of maintenance. It is therefore absolutely necessary to amend the statutes suitably.

The Law Member pointed out that provision has been made in the proposed enactment to enable the authorities concerned to impose a tax of not less than five per cent. It does not follow from that that the tax is to be imposed at this moment. When the time arises the actual incidence of the tax and the capability of the Municipality to pay will all be taken into consideration before the tax is actually imposed. Although I have no authority to say that, it seems to me that it is inevitable that the Government must contribute towards the maintenance of the scheme also. The Municipality cannot pay for it entirely from its own resources. But still, we must have more powers than at present so far as the right to impose the tax is concerned.

One way in which you can get revenue from a water-supply scheme is by actual measurement of the water consumed and charging for it at a certain rate. In view of the fact that here we are going to have over 900 public fountains in the streets we cannot hope to sell water from these fountains. We cannot expect much payment from house-owners. People who pay property tax and water tax are naturally entitled to free supply of water in their bungalows.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the supply be unlimited?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): There will be a limitation, but it will be very liberal. We can expect payment from house-owners only for water consumed beyond the limit of free supply. And that cannot be much. The limitation is mainly intended as a deterrent to prevent waste. Therefore it is only in the case of rich house-owners, who take large quantities of water for maintaining their extensive gardens, that we can think of as a real source of revenue; and such cases are not many in Trivandrum.

In the neighbouring Madras District, under the District Municipality Act and under the Rules thereunder, the maximum free allowance is 500 gallons per house per diem. For a pretty big house having about twenty people that is a fairly liberal allowance for domestic purposes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the quantity proposed to be supplied free here?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I do not think that matter has been considered yet. Probably, it would be similar to that in Madras. In Madras, the quantity supplied free varies, according to the rental value of the house, from 120 gallons per diem per house to 500 gallons.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I hope there would be a similar scale here also?

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MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I hope so. But, in Madras, their main source of revenue from water supply is from industrial consumers. We cannot, here in Trivandrum, hope to get any big income from industrial consumers of water. In Madras, from the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills alone, they get about Rs. 5 lakhs per annum; and the Harbour pays them Rs. 1½ lakhs more. We cannot hope to get any such big consumer like that here. Therefore, our Municipality will have to find the money for the maintenance of the Water Supply Works so far as Trivandrum is concerned mainly from taxtion.

Coming back to the question of maintenance of the Water Supply Works again, I dare say it would be agreed on all hands, that, for the first few years it would be better that the Government do the maintenance, so that, after getting some experience and training it might be handed over to the Municipality. I think the Public Works Department will have to do the work of maintenance till then. The Government and the authorities concerned must therefore be armed with the powers necessary to enable them to find the funds necessary for the purpose. The proposed enactment is therefore absolutely necessary.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know from the member whether the work of maintenance could be carried on with a water-tax at one per cent. on the annual rental value of the lands and houses?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I have not studied that question at all. May I suggest that some other member, the Financial Secretary for instance, may be asked about it?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Chief Secretary will, I hope, be able to enlighten you on the matter.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I wish to speak a few words in connection with this Bill, mainly in regard to the financial aspect of the scheme. Government have been considering this question for some time past. There is no doubt, that whatever arrangement they may make, in the end, they will necessarily have to pay a heavy sum for the scheme on which they have launched.

Sir, the cost of the scheme, excluding the cost of investigation and the preparation of designs, comes to Rs. 46¼ lakhs for the first stage and Rs. 52 lakhs when it is completed. In the case of works of this kind, it is usual to add an interest on the outlay during the course of construction. Taking interest also into account, by the time the first stage of the scheme actually comes into operation, the cost will roughly amount to Rs. 50 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What about the sum of Rs. 52 lakhs which the member mentioned just a while ago?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That would be the cost after the final stage including the extension of the scheme beyond Poojapura, outside the municipal limits, is completed.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The first stage covers only the municipal area?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; and for that the total cost is estimated to be about Rs. 46,22,000.

Now, the point for consideration is how to find this sum of fifty lakhs. As the House is aware, Government have undertaken to finance the scheme at the outset. They have not, as yet, come to any agreement with the Municipality as to the share of the cost which the Municipality is to contribute. Now, Sir, there are various ways in which that question can be approached. But the one point to be kept in view is that the general tax-payer should not be called upon to pay for the amenities enjoyed by the people of this one town.

In regard to the financial aspect of the scheme, first of all, we may require the Municipality to treat the whole expenditure as a loan, and ask them to pay, annually, interest on the total cost, necessary contribution towards a sinking fund for the loan to be repaid after a fairly long term of years, and also the cost of maintenance. It is not necessary for us to argue long about it; for, it is an absolutely impossible proposition so far as the Trivandrum Municipality is concerned. Now, interest alone, on the sum of Rs. 50 lakhs, comes to Rs. 2¾ lakhs per annum at 5½ per cent. And then, for providing for a sinking fund for period—the whole loan to be repaid 62 years hence—that is a fairly long period—and for depreciation at ½ per cent. of the capital, the contribution comes to about Rs. 25,000 per annum.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Am I to understand that the sinking fund talked of is for the whole amount being repaid to Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. I am not now suggesting that that is the course which the Government propose to adopt. I am merely trying to show how that proposition would work out financially.

And then, roughly, the annual cost of maintenance comes to a lakh and a half. So, on the whole, under all these items, the Municipality would have to raise annually four and half lakhs of rupees, if they are to be asked to treat the whole investment as a loan advanced to them by the Government. You may deduct from this 4½ lakhs, a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs expected to be realised by metering of water to consumers. Even then the Municipality will have to find out three lakhs of rupees every year. For that purpose, the Municipality will have to impose a water - cess of 20 per cent. of the annual rental value of the buildings.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How is the sum of one and a half lakhs to be realised?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): By sale of water to consumers like the Public Works Department, the Municipality—for watering the roads—and to industrial concerns which may need water.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): By sale of water to private consumers also, I suppose?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, if they exceed the free-supply limit.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Out of the one and a half lakhs expected to be realised by sale of water what is the amount expected to be collected from private consumers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got that information. I have not got the report itself with me just now. Personally, I think that it is an optimistic estimate that the Executive Engineer has made when he anticipates an annual income of Rs. 1½ lakhs by sale of water.

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): Very optimistic.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Even assuming that we are going to get that amount, the Municipality would still have to impose a cess of 20 per cent. of the rental value of the buildings in order to find out the balance of Rs. 3 lakhs. And, that is certainly an impossible proposition.

Then, another way of looking at the question is this. Suppose the Government agree to forego one-half of the total cost as their final contribution towards the scheme, and leave the balance alone to be repaid by the Municipality.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the annual income of the Trivandrum Municipality?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Roughly, a lakh of rupees.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): House-tax alone?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Everything included.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is their income from house-tax alone?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the figure.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is *the* figure we want.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not worked out on the existing figures. I have provided for the revision and enhancement of the house-tax also.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You said some time back that a cess at the rate of 20 per cent. of the annual rental would amount to Rs. 3 lakhs. You can easily work out what the total receipts by way of house-tax now come to. You know the rate of assessment of house-tax at present is 2½ per cent. of the annual rental value.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; roughly it comes to about Rs. 25,000.

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Then, Sir, another way of viewing the problem is, as I have said already, to treat 50 per cent. of the total expenditure as outright grant to the Municipality, the balance alone being treated as loan to the Municipality. Even then, a cess of 10½ per cent. would have to be imposed for the repayment of the other half, and for maintenance and other charges. Interest on Rs. 25,00,000 at 5½ per cent. per annum comes to Rs. 1,35,000 odd. The annual payment towards sinking fund and depreciation, at ¼ per cent. comes to about Rs. 18,750. Operation and maintenance charges amount to Rs. 1,50,000 per annum. Deducting the anticipated income by sale of water, the Municipality has to find out annually a sum of Rs. 1,53,750. To realise this amount a water tax of 10½ per cent. roughly will have to be imposed.

A third way of looking at the problem was also considered, namely to treat the whole expenditure as finally debitable to the general revenues of the State so that no sinking fund would be necessary as the money is not repayable. The Municipality will have to pay interest alone on the outlay.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, it will not be a grant. It will be something like an investment in Government of India securities.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It will be a sort of a permanent loan, never repayable. Government must certainly get some interest on its investment. I am just now going to show how that proposition also is not practicable.

Interest on the total investment of 5½ per cent. amounts to Rs. 2¾ lakhs. Provision for depreciation comes to Rs, 12,500. Cost of maintenance comes to Rs. 1½ lakhs. Again, deducting the anticipated income, the Municipality has to find out Rs. 2,87,000 every year; and that means a water-tax of a little over 19 per cent. on the annual rental value.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Why not treat it purely as a Government concern? The Bill provides for that also.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): But will that be fair to the general tax-payer? Should the whole State contribute something like three lakhs of rupees annually, after having spent more than fifty lakhs of rupees initially, in order that the people of Trivandrum should enjoy a water supply scheme? That is the proposition that the House has to consider.

Considering the several aspects of the question, I think that the most equitable arrangement would be, in the light of the present financial condition of the Trivandrum Municipality, for the Government to contribute a share of the working expenses also. Now, let us suppose that we decide to do that—It is only a hypothetical proposition that I am now taking up for consideration. Government have not considered the question at all. Suppose the Government agree to contribute one-half of the net expenditure. Even then, the Municipality will have to find out Rs. 1,43,000 annually; and for that they will have to levy a

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[Mr. K. George.]

cess of about 9½ per cent. of the annual rental value of the buildings. But, this seems to be the best solution that can be offered.

I understand that, in Bangalore, they have launched a new water-supply scheme. There also they have decided to spend the whole of the initial cost, of about fifty lakhs of rupees, out of the general revenues. The annual recurring cost comes to about Rs. 7 lakhs. They hope to get about Rs. 3½ lakhs by the sale of half of the water to the Bangalore Cantonment. They propose to realise the balance of Rs. 3½ lakhs from the City Municipality. More accurately, the amount which the Municipality has to raise annually is Rs. 3,74,000 out of which the Government propose to contribute only Rs. 26,000. The Municipality has to find out the rest.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the rate of the water cess in Bangalore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not quite sure as to the rates.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is the Chief Secretary in a position to give us an idea of the rate of cess obtaining in any other place, if not Bangalore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am told that, in Madras, the house-tax, water-tax and drainage-tax, all together amount to about 18 per cent. of the annual rental value of the house.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know, in this connection, whether we can expect a further drainage tax also in the near future?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If the city wants a drainage scheme, the city must pay for it, of course,

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it likely to be more than the proposed water cess?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It will be about the same as that.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, all thess taxes together would come to about 25 per cent. of the annual rental value of the houses?

MR. J. S. WESTERDALE (*Chief Engineer*): I know of at least one London Municipal Borough where the people pay more than a hundred per cent. of the annual rental value of the houses as taxes.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Probably, considering the sources of income of the people there, the amount does not count much. But that is not the case here.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In Bangalore, before the new water-supply scheme, which I referred to a little while ago, the water-tax was about 4½ per cent. on the annual rental value of buildings, and 1/5th of the land tax in the case of vacant sites.

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The assessment rates in the case of water works in the United Provinces is 7½ per cent. of the annual value.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the financial aspect of the scheme was considered by Government before is was started and whether they knew at that time that a water cess would have to be levied at 10 per cent. of the annual rental?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot definitely answer that question. I can say this much, that the Municipality repeatedly asked for a water supply scheme for the Trivandrum Municipality. The financial aspect, so far as the capital outlay is concerned, was estimated by the Chief Engineer. But, no settlement was come to with the Municipality.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But did the Government know as a matter of fact that a water cess of 10 per cent. would have to be imposed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): From the report it is seen that something like 7½ per cent. will have to be levied.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I want to elicit information on this point. But Government are not in a position to give me the information.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So you are sure that something is mentioned in the report.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, something is mentioned. But I cannot refer to the particular paragraph just now.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You may be able to give the figure later.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The report speaks of assessment per rupee on the basis of an annual value of Rs. 11 lakhs. The rate works out to 2·41 annas in the rupee or 15 per cent. But it is anticipated that by a revision of the assessment, the annual rental is likely to increase to Rs. 15 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Without revision?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As things stood, roughly it was 2·41 annas in the rupee.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I understand that at the time the scheme was started the idea was that 15 per cent. of the annual value was to be imposed.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. Various courses were open to Government when the water-supply scheme was started. But they did not decide as to which course they should adopt.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So am I to understand that the position of the Government was that the scheme for the supply of good drinking water should be started and the financial aspects of the question considered later on?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, something like that.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Sir, this is a very serious matter, at least so far as the Trivandrum Municipality is concerned. And here is a Bill now placed before the House where the people of Trivandrum are sought to be taxed. It also sought to introduce a provision in the legislation that tax not below a certain amount should be imposed. But we are not in a position to get the necessary data from the speakers on the Government side. We do not know what would be the amount available as water-cess in case a particular proportion of the rental is fixed. We would like to get more definite data in regard to this matter. The Bill has provided for a definite minimum percentage. The Government members are not in a position to give the information, at any rate, so far as the position of the Municipality is concerned, what amount would be available in case water-cess at a certain rate is imposed and so forth.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The annual value, as it is, is about Rs. 11 lakhs.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): At any rate, the matter requires deeper consideration So I would move that the consideration of this Bill may be adjourned to another date.

It should not be taken that this is a matter which affects the Trivandrum Municipality alone. The Law Member in answer to a question said that the Trivandrum Municipality alone is going to be affected by this. That is not the proper way to take it. It is a matter in which all members are interested and more facts would be useful in discussing this question. So I move that the consideration of this Bill may be postponed.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Does the member agree that the Trivandrum Municipality should give a contribution ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Yes, I agree to it. If my motion is not allowed, I will have my say. I thought that the Law Member said that this Bill should be passed in this session. Where is the hurry about it? We are not going to have the water-supply in a few weeks; at any rate, not before we meet again. Where is the hurry to take up this Bill and pass it into law as it is ? The Chief Secretary told me that at the time the scheme was started, Government's position was that at all costs good water would be supplied to the people of Trivandrum and whatever be the financial results that will have to be later on considered. I applaud the Government's motive. I do not know how far poor citizens of the Trivandrum town would be able to pay.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Does the member agree that some amount should be paid by the citizens for the water ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : I am not on that point. I am at the point of getting the discussion adjourned. We may have more time to study what people in other places are charged, what the Trivandrum people are able to pay, what percentage can be levied, what will be required and so on. Let us get full information on

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these points. Let the official benches come better prepared, So, I propose that the consideration of this Bill be adjourned.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) ; About the urgency of the matter, is the member aware that water rates are levied much earlier than the supply is made available in other places ?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : The people there must be helpless.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*) : I second the motion.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : Sir, I oppose the motion of Mr. Thanu Pillai. What I am able to understand from the speech of Mr. Thanu Pillai is that the Municipality for which he has the honour to represent is not prepared to pay anything for the water-supply, not even its due share.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : May I inform the member that I put that question to Mr. Thanu Pillai and he refused to answer.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : I did not hear the Law Member then. (*Laughter.*) For the Water-Supply Scheme, several lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned. Moreover, for the town of Trivandrum several lakhs have been spent for the Chackai-Tampanur railway extension, the Electric Scheme and the Telephone Scheme.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is the member aware that all these schemes have not added even a single pie to the Trivandrum citizen's pocket.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : It is like, "robbing Peter to pay Paul." It is quite proper that the Trivandrum Municipality should pay a decent amount towards the cost of the scheme. With these words, I support the principle of the Bill and oppose the motion for adjournment of the consideration of the Bill.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether the people of the Trivandrum Municipality ever demanded for the Chackai-Tampanur railway extension?

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*) : We are not directly concerned with that.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : Fortunately or unfortunately, it has become an accomplished fact that we are going to have water-supply in Trivandrum and it is also an admitted fact that several lakhs of rupees from the general tax-payer have been spent for the town. These two points have been conceded. Then, the only question and the only principle, so far as I have been able to understand in the Bill, is whether the men who enjoy the amenities of civilized life and the amenities of water-supply in the town are prepared to pay for it. That

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[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai]

is the broad principle underlying the Bill. Whether it is 5 or 10 per cent. is a matter that can be settled in the Select Committee. I do not see much in the argument of Mr. Thanu Pillai in saying that we should have data in fixing the rate. All that can be done in the Select Committee. I do not think there is any use in fighting shy of the necessity of payment for convenience and amenities. Whether the people of Trivandrum wanted it or not, the water-supply scheme has come. Money has been spent. The maintenance charges must be paid by the citizens of Trivandrum.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Does the member know that the Law Member wants to have the Bill taken beyond the Second Reading stage in this Session ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : We can discuss them in the Select Committee.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : There is no question of Select Committee. That is what the Law Member says.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : So far as the First Reading of the Bill in the House is concerned, I think the only question that we have to consider is, whether the people of Trivandrum are prepared to pay anything as contribution and my friend conceded that they are prepared to pay. The only difference, I hope, is in the percentage of payment. I submit Sir, this is a matter of detail to be settled. There is no use of delaying the Bill any longer. The First Reading of the Bill is just to determine whether we accept this simple principle of the Bill. I think we can go through. There is absolutely no difficulty with regard to that. It has been conceded by Mr. Thanu Pillai himself that they must pay something for the annual expenditure on maintenance. What that payment should be, I think, can be decided after getting details. That must be done by the Select Committee. Simply because the Law Member said that it has to be rushed through it cannot be done so. I do not think there is any objection to the principle of the Bill on its broad basis that for the amenities provided by the capital of the general tax-payer, the people of Trivandrum should contribute something at least. If this is conceded, the principle of the Bill can be accepted. With these words, I support the principle of the Bill and oppose the otion for adjournment.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Sir, I oppose the motion for postponement of the debate. As Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has just now pointed out, rightly or wrongly, the money of the general tax-payer *has been* spent and the water will now automatically come to the town. Then the question is, who should pay. We cannot stand still. It will be a crime to deal with the matter like that. Water is expected to be brought to the town in January 1933 or thereabout. That is the expectation of the Water Works Engineer. The next question is, whether the Municipality should not pay for it,

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Mr. Thanu Pillai is agreeable to that, I believe. On that question I propose that a minimum of 5 per cent. should be imposed. It is before the House and it is open to the House to alter that. The broad principle is whether the Municipality should be asked to pay something as tax towards the working of the water-supply.

MR. M. GOVINDAN (*Nominated*) : Will it be referred to the Select Committee?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : I will come to it later on. On the broad principle, the House has agreed. As regards the maximum or the minimum of the rate, it is open to the House to amend it suitably when it comes to the Second Reading stage. On this question there is not much that a Select Committee can do. Of course if I see from the debate that a Committee is necessary I will move for it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Why not a Select Committee?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Because there is only one single point.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : In that one single point, there may be many points to be considered.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The water will be supplied during the course of 1108. In view of the urgency of the matter I brought it now. In the course of the debate, if it is found necessary to have a Select Committee, I will move for it. In that case I may say, Sir, that the Select Committee will have to submit its report within a very short period.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Have you anything to say Mr. P. S. Mahomed. I saw you standing. Let your speech be brief, because we have to discuss the adjournment motion at 3-30 P. M.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : ആലപ്പുഴ മുതലായ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിൽനിന്നും പണം ഞങ്ങൾക്കുടി ചെലവുചെയ്യാം, ഞങ്ങളെ സഹായിക്കണമെന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറിനോടു അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ അതു വകവയ്ക്കാതെ, രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വരുന്ന പാളമുതലിൽനിന്നും തിരുവനന്തപുരം മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കും, ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾക്കുംവേണ്ടി, വാട്ടർ സപ്ലൈ, എലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി മുതലായ പല സംഗതികളും ഗവണ്മെൻറുചെയ്തു സഹായിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതനുഭവിക്കുന്നവർ അതിലേക്കു ഒരു ചെറിയ കരമെങ്കിലും കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രതിഷേധിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ന്യായം നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. മി: എ. താണുപിള്ള ഇവിടെ ചൂണ്ടികാണിച്ചതു ഇങ്ങനെ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായകരം, റൻറൽ വാല്യുവിൻെറ അഞ്ചു ശതമാനം, കുറെ കൂടിപോയില്ലെ എന്നാണു്. ഈ ഒരു സംഗതിക്കുവേണ്ടി തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിൽ കഴിച്ചിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യവളരെ വലുതാണു്.

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[Mr. P. S. Mahomed]

എന്നാൽ അതിലേക്കു നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്ന കരം, ചെലവുചെയ്ത സംഖ്യയെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു തുലോം കുറവായതിനാൽ ഈ ബിൽ ഒരു സെലക്ട് കമ്മിറ്റിക്കയച്ചു ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നതോന്നുന്നില്ല.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): ഇങ്ങനെ ആലോചനക്രമം തെയാണൊ അലപ്പുഴയും ഈ സംഗതിനടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*) ടൌണിനു ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യവും, ടൌണിൽ താമസിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾക്കു ഉപയോഗപ്രദവുമായ സംഗതി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ചെലവുകൾ വന്നുചേരുമെന്നുള്ളതു മുൻകൂട്ടി അറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടാണു ടുടങ്ങുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോൾ കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾക്ക് ഈടാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന വസ്തുവിന്റെ ശതമാനത്തിന്റെ ഇരട്ടിമാത്രമെ കരം വയ്ക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഇത്രയും വലിയ തുക ചെലവാക്കുകയും, ഇത്രയും കൂടുതൽ സുഖസൌകര്യാദികൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിതരികയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഒരു കരം കൂടുതൽ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു വലിയകാര്യമായി വിചാരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ കരുതിയിരുന്നില്ല. ഞാൻ മി: താണുപിള്ളയുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ എതിർക്കുന്നു.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, one word in reply.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The time is almost up.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is that a consideration?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We shall try to see whether that motion at least could not be disposed of.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Now we are discussing that motion.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What have you to say Mr. K .P. Nilakanta Pillai? What time will you require?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Five minutes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not think it is possible. You can have your say next day. We will have to start the adjournment motion at 3-30 P. M. precisely.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): It is not the view that should prevail on this question. It should not be looked into, considered, and decided with a parochial view. We are not particular that the rest of the people of Trivandrum should be taxed for the amenities which the Trivandrum people are getting.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You will continue your speech next day. It is now 3-30 P. M. We will now proceed with the adjournment motion.

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